

Marine Weather Statement

PRODUCT DESCRIPTION DOCUMENT

Part I - Mission Connection

- a. Product Description - The Marine Weather Statement (MWS) is an alphanumeric product providing information on potentially hazardous marine conditions associated with non-severe thunderstorms and/or waterspouts. This product is prepared for each National Weather Service (NWS) Weather Forecast Office's (WFO's) coastal waters marine area of responsibility (MAOR). The MAOR is not consistent for all parts of the nation, for most WFOs, it varies in width from 40 to 60 nautical miles off of the U.S. coastline, and territories.
- b. Purpose - The product is issued and updated on an unscheduled basis, for localized, short or long duration hazardous conditions, such as wind, waves, visibility, low water levels, hazardous materials spills, volcanic ash, or to advise of potential development of warning conditions. The MWS is also issued to address weather events likely to impact the formation or destruction of ice. This product is prepared for marine areas such as bays, harbors, sounds and coastal waters along the U.S. coastline out to the Offshore marine zone. For WFO Guam and WSO Pago Pago, American Samoa, the coastal waters extend out to the High Seas marine zone. This product is intended to provide information assisting in the protection of life and property, and enhancing the nation's economy.
- c. Audience - The target audience for the product includes: ocean going vessels, barge and tug boat operators; private maritime organizations; recreational mariners; national, state, and local emergency managers; military and government agencies; media; and the general public.
- d. Presentation Format - The product is a free-form product and is made available in an alphanumeric format, and is prepared in a consistent manner from all WFOs with coastal waters MAOR. Any unique differences in the MWS due to local geography or regional customer requests are described in NWS policy documents made available on the Internet at:

http://www.nws.noaa.gov/directives/010/operation_services.htm
- e. Feedback Method - Continuous feedback is available via an Internet page email link to the program managers in the Marine and Coastal Weather Services. Feedback on this product is obtained at Focus Group meetings, from Boat Shows, and Customer Surveys.

Technical and policy questions and comments for the MWS may be addressed to:

National Weather Service
Attn: Brian LaMarre W/OS21
Marine Program Manager
1325 East-West Highway, Room 13118
Silver Spring, MD 21910-3285

or e-mail questions and comments to: Brian.Lamarre@noaa.gov

Part II - Technical Description

- a. Format & Science Basis - The MWS product is disseminated in an alphanumeric format and contains the coastal zone(s) affected, the reason for the statement issuance, the type and magnitude of the expected hazardous weather, the statement expiration time, and an appropriate call-to-action statement. The product is written in a standard and concise format with all required elements.
- b. Product Availability - The product is disseminated and updated on an unscheduled basis. The product is made available via various means of dissemination such as: the Internet, U.S. Coast Guard Radio Broadcasts, the NOAA Weather Radio, and the NOAA Weather Wire. Additional information on Marine and Coastal product dissemination is available at:

<http://weather.gov/om/marine/home.htm>

The following WWW Internet site is one location to access the MWS product:

<http://weather.gov/om/marine/forecast.htm#mws>

- c. Additional Information

A description of Marine and Coastal Services policy, area of responsibility, abbreviations and definitions, standards and guidelines, and means of product dissemination for the MWS product is contained in NWS Instruction 10-314, which is made available on the Internet at:

http://www.nws.noaa.gov/directives/010/operation_services.htm